

U. S. REDUCES WIRE AND PHONE RATES

Burleson Defends Taking Over of Cable as Part of Unity Plan.

WATSON SCORES ACTION

Senators See Administration Scheme to Control All Peace News.

Special Despatch to THE SUN. WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Coincident with the issuance of a statement to-day defending the position of the Government in taking control of the cable lines, Postmaster-General Burleson announced the first cut in rates.

The "night message" telegraph rate is to be reduced on January 1 and telephone rates in hotels and apartments must hereafter be the same as local rates charged by the telephone companies. In most cases a double rate has been charged. Orders were also issued to-day for the delivery of night telegrams by letter carriers hereafter.

The changes made to-day are described as the forerunners of many others. A complete unification scheme which embraces all cables and land wires will soon be put into operation. So complete is this that the identity of all companies taken over will be lost. Other rate reductions will accompany this change.

In his statement defending the taking over of the cables the Postmaster-General pointed out that common ownership or control is essential to all good service, and that there never was a time when uninterrupted and continuous communication was so necessary. He also referred to the breakdown in one of the cable systems and the action, though he did not mention which system it was.

The Burleson statement did not serve to appease the anger of many Republican Senators, some of whom insisted that the Government wanted to control the cable lines for purposes of the peace conference.

Statement by Burleson.

In his statement Mr. Burleson said: "Originally the cable systems were organized and operated independently of the land line systems.

"The Mackay company, originally a cable system, finding that the land lines were indispensable to the cable system, constructed a land system to make more effective its cable system.

"The Western Union, while organized primarily as a land company, although there were large cable facilities working in connection with it belonging to other companies, yet for its own interest were forced into constructing and otherwise obtaining effective control of the transatlantic cable companies which had theretofore been independent but which worked in connection with the Western Union and which did not belong to or work in connection with the Commercial or Mackay interests.

"The other cable companies through their contractual relations became more or less a part of the telegraph system so far as transmission and continuity were concerned and their operation in this way was made as effective as would be through ownership or common control.

"There never was a time in the history of this war for which this joint resolution was passed giving the President the right to control the wire and cable systems which called for such a close control of the cable system as to-day and will continue during the period of readjustment."

Plans for New Rates.

Committees, under direction of the Postmaster-General are at work on general uniform rate system for the entire United States, which will bring down the general rate level and result in heavy reductions in some rates in many communities. These committees were increased to-day by the appointment of representatives of public service commissions to get the benefit of their knowledge.

The new rates are worked out on the following schedule: Where day message rate is 25-2, night message rate is 20-1.

Where day message rate is 30-2, night message rate is 25-1.

Where day message rate is 35-2, night message rate is 30-1.

Where day message rate is 40-3, night message rate is 35-1.

Where day message rate is 45-3, night message rate is 40-1.

Where day message rate is 50-3, night message rate is 45-1.

Where day message rate is 55-3, night message rate is 50-1.

Where day message rate is 60-4, night message rate is 55-2.

Where day message rate is 65-4, night message rate is 60-2.

Where to Put Your Money

Put at least some of your money where it will be safe no matter what happens.

Our first Mortgage Participation Certificates enable you to do this with any sum from \$200 up. Furthermore, just now you can get 5% on your money, principal and interest guaranteed.

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FOURTH LOAN TOTAL IS \$6,989,047,000

Official Figures Show Subscriptions Greatly Exceed Sum Asked For.

N. Y. EXCESS \$244,778,600

Secretary McAdoo Announces New Bond Issues Will Be of Short Maturities.

Special Despatch to THE SUN. WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Final official figures on the Fourth Liberty Loan, the greatest piece of financing in the history of the world, show a total subscription of nearly \$7,000,000,000. The exact figures are \$6,989,047,000.

New York, while ninth in the percentage of over-subscription, led all Federal Reserve districts with a total of \$244,778,600 above the \$1,500,000,000 asked. Future issues of bonds by the Treasury to make war obligations, the issue of bonds to be headed off and the expenses of the reconstruction period are to be of short maturities, Secretary McAdoo stated to-day.

He said that though it was not yet possible to estimate to what amount further issues of bonds must be made, it was clear that the time had come when the interest of the country would be served by the issue of bonds of short maturities and that this would be the policy of the Treasury.

Next Bonds to Run Five Years.

Because of the comparatively early maturities of bonds already issued it is likely that the next bond issue will be for a maturity not greater than five years, as the first of the Liberty Loans mature in 1925, running up to 1947.

Final figures on the fourth loan show a total war debt as represented by the loans and war savings and thrift stamps issued of \$18,731,000,000. War savings stamps sold up to date total \$1,879,000,000 and the Liberty Loans total \$17,852,000,000. The final cost in interest alone to this nation probably will reach \$20,000,000,000 when tax money and direct monetary losses of one kind and another are included. In European equivalent this is nearly 1,000,000,000,000 francs.

Details of Districts.

Quotas and subscriptions to the fourth loan by Federal Reserve districts follow: District. Quota. Subscribed. P. C. Boston.....\$500,000,000 \$421,450,000 84.3% New York.....\$1,500,000,000 \$1,744,778,600 116.3% Philadelphia.....\$500,000,000 \$587,660,000 117.5% Cleveland.....\$500,000,000 \$703,500,000 140.7% St. Louis.....\$500,000,000 \$544,940,000 108.9% Minneapolis.....\$500,000,000 \$418,000,000 83.6% St. Paul.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Kansas City.....\$500,000,000 \$508,000,000 101.6% Omaha.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Denver.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Salt Lake City.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Portland.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% San Francisco.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Seattle.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Tacoma.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Vancouver.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Victoria.....\$500,000,000 \$480,000,000 96.0% Grand total.....\$6,989,047,000

FOOD PRICES KEEP CLIMBING.

Increase of 16 Per Cent. Shown During Year.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Retail food prices were 16 per cent higher during October than in September, the Bureau of Labor Statistics announced to-day.

An increase of 16 per cent was reported for all articles of food during the last year, and a comparison of prices for the five year period from October, 1913, to last month showed an average increase of 75 per cent.

"Fifty-fifty" Charity Barred.

Charity entertainments on a "fifty-fifty" basis will not be tolerated by the District Attorney's office. This was made known yesterday when Edwin P. Kline, Assistant District Attorney, ordered the cancellation of an entertainment which was scheduled for Carnegie Hall on December 6 for the benefit of the Armenian Relief Fund. Promoters and the charity were to share equally, it is alleged.

The first of the approximately 150,000 men in the Officers Corps released will be those who are anxious to sever completely their connection with military life and return to their former civil occupations. Applications from these men for release, officials said, will be given first consideration and will be acted upon promptly.

Consideration next will be given to applications from officers who wish to return to civil life, but to retain their status as reserve officers, subject to call for a period of years. General Staff officials believe that a large portion will follow this course thereby giving the United States an adequate supply of competent reserve officers for the first time.

In passing officers back into the inactive reserve list, care will be taken to hold to the last officers who desire to apply for commissions in the regular establishment and whose records show them to be fitted for regular army life. It is by this means that men of special talent will be kept out and kept available as long as any reserve officers are on duty. Should the reorganization program be carried out, the regular establishment is known, officials said, nothing can be done toward giving these highly qualified men permanent military status.

PEEKSKILL EPIDEMIC WORSE.

Many Cases of Influenza in Gas Mask Factory.

PEEKSKILL, N. Y., Nov. 19.—An increase in influenza cases here since last Wednesday has raised the fear of a second outbreak of the epidemic. Many cases are reported from the Standard oilcloth plant, Monrovia, where gas masks are being made. George T. Buchanan, general manager; Harold D. E. Hyatt, superintendent, and Harold Allison are dead, and Henry Jung, an official, is seriously ill.

Nearly 1,000 cases have been reported and it is believed there are many more.

MANN IN HOSPITAL AGAIN.

Returns to Johns Hopkins for Examination and Rest.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 19.—Representative James H. Mann, Illinois, Republican floor leader of the House, is again a patient at Johns Hopkins Hospital. He came here from Washington last night for an examination and a rest during the approaching recess of Congress.

Mr. Mann was a patient at Hopkins about a year ago and was considered cured.

War Plants to Lose Priority.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—The preference list of the War Industries Board, under which war plants were given priority of material, fuel, transportation facilities and labor to complete the war program, will be cancelled at once.

Priorities Commissioner Edwin B. Parker announced to-day.

GARFIELD WILL FIX COAL PRICES HERE

Gross Margin of Retailers' Profit Varies From \$1.75 to \$2.75 a Ton.

INCLUDES ALL EXPENSE

Consumers to Be Protected if Overcharges Are Reported to Boards.

Special Despatch to THE SUN. WASHINGTON, Nov. 19.—Rigid control of the retail prices of anthracite coal will be maintained this winter by Dr. Garfield in New York city and other places dependent upon the anthracite mines for a fuel supply.

The gross margin of profit allowed retailers varies from \$1.75 to \$2.75. This includes drivers' wages, yard labor, office help, the purchase and upkeep of trucks, wagons and other equipment, loss of coal in transit and breaking up of larger sizes in handling.

Under this order the cost of coal to the consumer in New York city is \$4.75 to \$5.75, paid to the producer at the mines, with the freight rate to New York city and the retailers' gross margin of profit added. If the coal is handled through a jobber an additional charge of twenty cents a ton is allowed east of Buffalo.

The administration will undertake to protect the consumer, said Dr. Garfield, "if instances of overcharging are brought to the attention of the local fuel administrators who have power to act."

In determining the gross margin of profit which a retailer may charge, Dr. Garfield said the local fuel committee in each community ascertain through investigation the retailer's cost of conducting his business and decides what is regarded as a proper margin. A recommendation is then submitted to the State fuel administrator, who has power to fix maximum profits.

3,677,261 TONS OF COAL ELUDE POLICE

Dealers Cannot Understand Figures.

Somebody is holding out 3,677,261 tons of coal on the police. So if you are frisked just by searching copper fingers, explain just as gently that you haven't a single ton in your pocket. The cop may not believe you, and he may turn in your name to Hizonner, the Mayor, for not giving him the desired information. Names of persons who refused to state just how much coal they had or didn't have during the police survey of the last week have been given to Hizonner for some sort of action. By this enlightening process the police survey has come to the conclusion that Greater New York is short the 3,677,261 tons.

The coal merchants decline to shed any light upon the problem.

"The Police Commissioner moves in a mysterious way his wonders to perform," said one prominent coal merchant. "How he could expect to make an accurate survey of the coal situation here I can't see. You must have a basis of normal consumption to estimate a shortage. And consumption is as varied as a weathercock in a March wind. Weather conditions, labor, manufacturing, seasons and what not, all enter into the situation and control it."

"We've never been able to determine a normal consumption at any time. And as to the shortage the police announce, it certainly isn't reflected in the trade. There is no demand for coal now. We have more coal than in years. November 19 last year there were long lines of people at our offices demanding coal, and to-day we had but six who casually dropped in and ordered a ton or so. I know that Manhattan and The Bronx are in the shape for the winter; Brooklyn in spots is putting in supplies."

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